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subject. It is none the less a book to be grateful for as the overflow, not too technical to attract the average reader, of a very learned scholar.

Secretary Seward's prophecy that the "Pacific Ocean, its shores, its islands and the vast region beyond will become the chief theatre of events in the world's great hereafter," and President Taft's statement that "the problem of the Pacific is the greatest problem now before the American people," sound the key-note to the discussions on China and the Far East held at Clark University last summer and now appearing in book form. Twenty-two papers of unequal value, and of necessity including considerable repetition of subject-matter, make up this volume. The diversity in point of view and the variety of opinions expressed give the reader an insight into the complexity of the Eastern problem that would be impossible in the work of a single author. The majority of the papers deal with some phase of the political, economic or commercial conditions of China, Japan and Korea, and their relation to the United States and to each other. Dr. Wright's chapter on the "Opium Problem" and Professor Harlan Beach's "History of Christian Missions in China" have an important bearing on the main questions and are not the least interesting in the book. If a main theme may be found running through such varied discussions, it would be the discussion of political, economic and commercial policies framed by the nations of the world in general, and the United States in particular, as a result of the three inequalities suffered by China in the family of the nations. These inequalities are: first, the fact that China is not at liberty to fix her own tariffs; second, the establishment of extra-territorial courts on Chinese soil; and, third, the exclusion by America of Chinese emigrants. In view of these inequalities, the policy of the "Open Door," the "Territorial Integrity of China," present diplomatic and political difficulties which justify President Taft in designating them as the weightiest American problems. Dr. Kan-Ichi Asakawa's paper on "Japan's Relation to China" is one of the most interesting contributions to the discussion and gives the Japanese point of view with great clearness and acumen. "The Awakening of Korea," by Mr. Horace N. Allen, formerly Minister to

Korea, has a timely interest owing to the recent developments in that peninsula. Although collections of papers are, at best, unsatisfactory reading, "*China and the Far East*"* is an exception which proves this rule; its very discursiveness gives an added insight into the complexity of the Eastern problem.

FICTION.

WHEN in the preface to "*Major Barbara*" George Bernard Shaw spoke of "extraordinarily fresh, free and future piercing suggestions" which he derived from the works of one Samuel Butler, unknown to the many, it was merely a matter of time until there should be reprints of this author. Messrs. E. P. Dutton have now brought out an American edition and the book will doubtless be much read. Samuel Butler is not so much the forerunner of Bernard Shaw as he is the master of H. G. Wells. In "*The Way of All Flesh*"† there is a savage attack upon the old time-honored institution of the family and upon the hypocrisies of religion and respectability as these obtained in the middle of the last century. If the profession of the novelist is to register facts, to see and set down life as it is, then "*The Way of All Flesh*" is a remarkable novel, for it gives a vivid and full sense of life as it was lived about 1860. Doubtless it is somewhat mercilessly set down. There are two ways of viewing the meanness of human nature—one way is to see man as he is and yet love the contemptible creature for what good is in him as Meredith does in "*The Egoist*." The other is to deal in wholesale contempt, and this way is Butler's. The difference, after all, lies in the capacity of the beholder. The best of us are more or less ridiculous; the worst have our moments of heroism. The attitude of "great God to a black beetle" is a difficult one for a mere mortal to maintain long with dignity. The book, however, is as refreshing as was "*Tono-Bungay*" in its wealth of detail, fulness of life, verve and vitality. One turns from it with the sense of experience as one might from a three months' stay in a strange city. Its people, its customs,

* "*China and the Far East*." Edited by George H. Blakeslee. New York: Thomas Y. Crowell & Co., 1910.

† "*The Way of All Flesh*." By Samuel Butler. New York: E. P. Dutton & Co., 1910.